
6.0 PARK DEVELOPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS



Hunters Creek Gorge

Within the County Park System there are many diverse settings and management concerns. The classification of parks into categories according to their significant features and special functions is recommended, to provide a framework for parks management and the allocation of resources (Refer to Section 3.0). Management issues vary between the park categories, and on a park by park basis. Detailed park-by-park recommendations are provided in Volume 2, along with accompanying park master plans. There are, however, a number of recommendations that can be applied to the overall park system, pertaining to management of natural environment areas, alternative vegetation management, park signage and public awareness. These are discussed in the following sections.

6.1 PARK MANAGEMENT ZONES

The use of management zones is recommended to identify management strategies that are consistent with the park classifications, and assist in the preservation and enhancement of the County Parks natural and cultural heritage features. On a park-by-park basis, identifying a consistent set of management zones will serve the parks department in organizing fiscal and staff resources, in response to specific maintenance requirements.

The following park management zones are proposed to be applied to the entire County Parks system, with general management policies noted for each:

- A. NATURE RESERVE ZONES
- B. RECREATION ZONES (ACTIVE AND PASSIVE)
- C. HERITAGE ZONES
- D. SERVICE ZONES



Cayuga Creek Trail, Como Lake Park

A. NATURE RESERVE ZONES

Includes significant natural features or areas that require management to ensure the long-term protection of the natural heritage, i.e. woodlands, wetlands, natural open space areas (meadows), waterways, ravines, gorges and escarpment faces, steep slopes, etc. These zones would be a primary focus of any County Eco-Tourism initiatives.

MANAGEMENT POLICIES:

- *Identify and protect species and habitats of significance;*
- *Delineate and enforce mowing limits to promote woodland expansion and meadow regeneration. Use seasonal mowing to deter woody species in areas where meadows are encouraged for habitat purposes, i.e. songbird, butterfly. Allow natural regeneration in areas where woodland expansion is desirable, removing only exotic species;*
- *Use native plant species for re-vegetation and restoration efforts. Manage invasive and exotic plant species. This will be particularly important in wetland and shoreline areas where invasive species such as purple loosestrife are becoming increasingly problematic.*
- *Evaluate park development projects and park uses for impacts on the natural environment;*
- *Restrict use activities to those with little or no negative impacts to vegetation, wildlife habitat, soil erosion, or water quality, i.e. hiking trails, access points, scenic lookouts. Potentially disruptive activities such as park roadways, mountain biking trails, or equestrian trails should be introduced only on sites and in areas without environmental sensitivity, and where impacts can be managed and mitigated;*
- *Review existing trails and picnic sites for impacts to natural environment. Close and relocate/rebuild as needed to ensure protection of slopes, creek banks, areas of significant vegetation or habitat;*
- *Develop appropriate strategies to manage wildlife habitat, such as protecting and enhancing native vegetation, providing proper water environments, keeping trails and high-activity areas away from*



Hunters Creek Park



sensitive wildlife zones, etc.;

- *Protect natural features from degradation and visual impacts, i.e. woodlands, bluffs, shorelines, escarpment faces, gorges, waterways, dunes; This would include keeping high impact activities away from these areas, and/or keeping any introduced materials such as steps and trails of a natural material.*
- *Identify monitoring programs for protecting water quality, significant habitat areas;*
- *Reinstate degraded riparian corridors. Maintain appropriate setbacks for trails and managed areas. Control bank erosion;*
- *Establish forest management practices that promote under-story development and canopy regeneration, (i.e. selective thinning to open canopy, culling of less desirable species, replanting);*
- *Develop and post signage to promote appropriate uses and to foster stewardship, i.e. park regulations, trail courtesy rules, interpretive signs.*



B. RECREATION ZONES (ACTIVE AND PASSIVE)

Includes the ‘maintained’ landscape areas of the parks in which facilities development is permitted to support low to moderate intensity recreation activities, i.e. sports fields, specialized activities, picnic areas, campgrounds, parking lots, etc.



Ellicott Creek Park

MANAGEMENT POLICIES:

- *Site, design and use materials on park structures that are unintrusive and compatible with the surrounding natural environment or heritage character;*
- *Consolidate activity areas to promote informal, passive use and to minimize incursions into natural and open space zones;*
- *Consolidate parking and roadways where possible to simplify circulation systems and reduce space requirements, while ensuring that access is maintained;*
- *Monitor park uses and impacts on natural environment, i.e. large group picnics, events staging. Consider rotation of areas to allow restoration of lawn and understory areas;*

- *Provide screening and buffering of development areas i.e. parking, maintenance, storage areas, through planting and vegetation;*
- *Manage vegetation areas to maintain scenic vistas and views*
- *Restrict artificial lighting to minimum amount necessary for park user safety and security. Use down-turned fixtures that improve lighting efficiency and reduce light spill. Sports lighting should include shielding and orientation to direct lighting away from natural areas.*

C. HERITAGE ZONES

Includes areas of significant cultural heritage or archaeological features that require management to ensure the preservation of these important heritage assets. Heritage zones have been identified for the following features:

- *Chestnut Ridge Casino, Ellicott Creek Casino/ Boathouse, old Boathouse (Castle) ruins on Ellicott Island, and other old stone park casinos,*
- *stone picnic shelters and structures including pump houses and kiosks*
- *Emery Inn,*
- *Wendt Mansion & stables,*
- *Akron Falls dam and pond, bridge, etc.*
- *Como Lake dam, light house, etc.*

These Zones would be the primary focus of any Heritage Tourism Initiatives.

MANAGEMENT POLICIES:

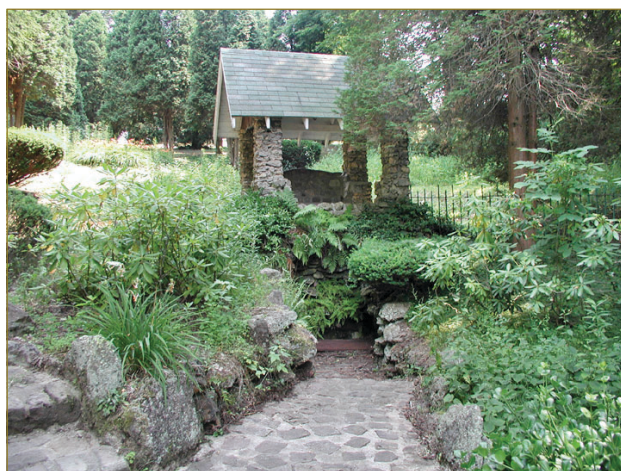
- *Restore historic park buildings and structures to ensure heritage preservation, safety, and functionality. Identify adaptive re-uses that are compatible with park uses, and respect the site's heritage; Identify problem areas and repoint stone work on a regular basis to avoid major expenses later on with wholesale repairs and reconstruction.*
- *Ensure a rehabilitation of older structures, which promotes flexibility for various future uses. This will*



Old Ruins, Ellicott Creek Park



Como Lake Park



Akron Falls Park

include the creative reuse of many of the older structures for more modern uses, i.e. Chestnut Ridge Casino as a Parks Visitors Center, meeting facility, banquet hall for weddings, restaurant, etc. Similar ideas would apply to the old Wendt Mansion that should be restored to its former glory as a place to rent for parties, weddings and receptions, meetings, catered events, etc.

- *Site, design and use materials on park structures that are unobtrusive and compatible with the surrounding heritage character;*
- *Provide landscape settings in keeping with the time period and history of the site. Where available, this should be based on archival research, and analysis of historic photographs and plans to identify original landscape intents.*
- *Provide screening and buffering of development areas i.e. parking, maintenance, storage areas, through planting and vegetation;*
- *Manage vegetation areas to maintain scenic vistas and views.*



Maintenance / Service facility at Chestnut Ridge Park



D. SERVICE ZONES

Includes maintenance and service areas for the developed parks, as well as access points or staging areas within the Conservation Parks (e.g. trailheads and parking lots) where minimal use facilities are needed to support allowable uses within the Nature Reserve Zone.

MANAGEMENT POLICIES:

- *Site, design, and use materials on park structures that are unintrusive and compatible with the surrounding natural environment or heritage character;*
- *Restrict development to areas where little or no negative impacts to vegetation, wildlife habitat, soil stability, or water quality will occur;*
- *Consolidate uses and activity areas to minimize space requirements and to reduce incursions into the natural or passive areas of the park;*
- *Provide screening and buffering of development areas through planting and vegetation;*
- *Monitor uses and impacts on the natural environment, and provide mitigation.*

6.2 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

6.2.1 MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION STRATEGIES

The Erie County Parks include extensive natural environment areas including streams and waterbodies, forested areas, and wetlands. Although many of these areas are preserved from development, they will require active management to ensure long term protection, and to restore some of the degraded systems. There are also opportunities within the management of the parks to enhance and restore wildlife habitat.

The Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District (ECSWCD) is a willing partner in the management of the County's natural resources, and should be engaged in identifying priority conservation or restoration projects, and identifying and implementing remedial actions; e.g. creekbank rehabilitation, slope stabilization, stormwater management measures, and improvements to existing ponds and waterbodies.

The ECSWD has identified a number of environmental management and restoration strategies for the Erie County Parks, which are outlined below:

- *Identify sensitive/critical areas such as vegetated buffers along watercourses; hydrologically sensitive areas including streams, wetlands, springs, recharge areas, wells; areas of unique flora/fauna including threatened/endangered/rare species, etc.*
- *Identify locations of non-native invasive species to be targeted for removal and for replacement by native vegetation.*

FORESTRY & VEGETATION MANAGEMENT IN PARKS



Akron Falls Park Lake



Example of Dune Restoration Technique (New Jersey Shore)

NATURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY

Complete a natural resources inventory to help plan for protection of natural resources and the environment.

(separate plan being developed for Forestry parcels)

Ensure proper species selection and management for maintenance, safety, and function;

- *Choose plant species for longevity, strength, durability, disease and insect resistance and placement in the appropriate environmental conditions for reduced maintenance efforts;*
- *Choose appropriate plant species for specific functions, such as:*
 - *Erosion control*
 - *Windbreaks*
 - *Energy conservation/climate control*
 - *Wildlife habitat/habitat food plots*
 - *Trail borders*
 - *Reforestation*



Dredging (Summer 2002) at Como Lake Park



Cayuga Creek in Como Lake Park

HABITAT ENHANCEMENT AND PROTECTION

Manage properties for the sustainability of native flora, fauna and biodiversity

- *Identify and manage sensitive/critical habitat areas;*
- *Manage and control non-native invasive species;*
- *Allow for regeneration/naturalization of some currently groomed park areas;*
- *Consider the designation of “forever wild” areas.*

Maintain varied habitats - woods, fields, in different stages of succession, shoreline are all attractive to different species

- *Boxes are valuable for encouraging the nesting of certain species such as Barn Owl, American Kestrel and Wood Duck. The Buffalo Ornithological Society has worked to provide boxes for Barn Owls and others may be willing to get involved in another such project.*
- *Plants and trees that offer food and shelter are critical to bird survival. On occasion, an unusual nesting or population of birds may be found. Conditions should be made to accomodate these special circumstances.*
- *Minimizing disturbance to protect bird populations against parasitism by cowbirds.*

Enforcement of restrictions on motorized vehicles and other activities that are harmful to the preservation of parklands as natural places. If rules aren't enforced, they are rules.

WATER QUALITY PROTECTION

Manage properties for the protection of water quality, i.e.

- *Stream protection*
 - *Maintain/enhance existing vegetated buffer areas along streams and other waterbodies for filtering of runoff, erosion protection and habitat; establish vegetated buffers in critical areas (i.e. establish recreation and maintenance buffers near streams and other waterbodies that are currently lacking a suitable buffer)*
 - *Perform stream maintenance as necessary (removal of snags/debris, removal of leaning trees)*
- *Stormwater management*
 - *Manage stormwater with appropriate practices where necessary to minimize stormwater inputs to municipal sewer systems and watercourses. (e.g. disconnect roof drainpipes and other outlets that direct stormwater to waterbodies and direct them to grass filter areas; use gravel or other techniques such as pervious pavement on parking areas and limited-use driving lanes to reduce stormwater runoff).*
- *Erosion and sediment control measures*
 - *Perform stream maintenance as necessary (removal of snags/debris, removal of leaning trees);*
 - *Manage erosion prone areas (streambanks, steep slopes) appropriately;*
 - *Manage heavy use areas such as hiking, biking, and horse trails to minimize erosion.*
- *Pesticide/fertilizer use*
 - *Reduce or eliminate over time the use of pesticides and fertilizers wherever possible in favor of a more organic approach. If utilized, properly manage fertilizer and pesticide use and storage,*



Wetland protection in Ontario



A "No-Mow" / Natural Regeneration example



Example of a naturalized meadow area

identify alternative measures (e.g. use Integrated Pest Management to reduce chemical applications and reduce costs). Work closely with the Erie County Environmental Management Council to identify potential future

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Plan for projects to educate the public on environmental awareness and natural resources conservation



The Back Dune area at Wendt Beach

- *Initiate demonstration projects to demonstrate proper management techniques for the conservation of natural resources (eg. streambank erosion control, buffer maintenance, non-native invasive species control, etc.)*
- *Establish interpretive trails that identify flora, fauna and places of historical and cultural significance.*

6.2.2 ALTERNATIVE MOWING TECHNIQUES

There are areas in many of the parks that are underutilized as recreation areas and that are currently being managed as manicured landscapes. The return of these areas to a more natural setting would serve an environmental benefit, and would allow for more resources to be redirected to park rehabilitation efforts.

Several methods exist for achieving naturalization within a park setting. These include simple alternatives to vegetation management such as establishing no-mow buffers adjacent to watercourses and woodlots, to more proactive approaches involving the re-planting of meadow or woodland areas with native species, or the detailed restoration or rehabilitation of degraded watercourses or erosion-prone slopes.

The following are examples of landscape areas where reduced mowing and alternative vegetation management strategies can be employed within the Erie County park system.

- *Steep slopes of 25% and over are hazardous to mow, and produce poor turf due to slippage and erosion.*
 - *These areas should be left unmown or planted with self-sustaining, native tree, shrub, and groundcover*



Multi-use trails through a natural zone in Ontario

plant communities.

- Wet areas subject to flooding *are difficult to mow and do not support good turf. Alternatives include natural regeneration (through elimination of mowing), replanting to include wet woodland species, or development of wetland communities.*
- Individual trees spaced at intervals in a lawn *can create difficult and costly mowing conditions. These can be consolidated into groves or copses, by eliminating mowing and allowing natural groundcovers to establish. The naturalization process can be speeded up, by inter-planting with native trees and shrubs.*
- Dense tree groupings or woodland areas *with mown turf under the canopy, are impacted by mowing as a result of soil impoverishment and an inability of the woodland to regenerate. Mowing should be discontinued and a natural groundcover allowed to re-establish itself. Alternatively, a native understorey can be encouraged through planting of shade tolerant, woodland groundcovers and shrubs.*
- Woodland, wetland, or creek edges *where frequent mowing is undertaken right up to the edge. Mowing limits should be extended further out from the natural plant community (at least 15'-20') to provide a natural buffer, and encourage natural regeneration.*
- Rock outcrops. *Where these occur in the cultural landscape, the maintenance of turf up to the edges, has little functional or aesthetic value. Natural plant communities should be allowed to re-establish themselves in these areas.*
- Use of native species of trees, shrubs and herbaceous material *in landscaped areas. Native species are generally better adapted to soil types, climatic conditions and moisture levels, and once established require less intensive maintenance practices. Exceptions to this approach may be the heritage areas of the parks,*



Example of a trail through an environmentally-sensitive zone.

where restoration of original landscapes might remain a priority.

- Incorporation of demonstration habitat areas. *In conjunction with the naturalization areas, there are opportunities to establish specialized areas that target wildlife or plant communities. Areas such as butterfly meadows or wetland habitats that have been incorporated into the more public areas of the park can serve as excellent projects for both community involvement and education.*



Volunteer planting efforts

DON'T DILUTE THE EXPERIENCE!

Years ago the Erie County Parks were some of the only places for recreation in the region. As a result, the parks were filled with numerous picnic shelters, playgrounds and support facilities/furnishings. In more recent years, local municipalities began to fill many of the “active” recreational needs, focus has shifted towards more “nature-based” recreation and many residential backyards have now become mini-“country clubs,” leaving some of the parks with extensive numbers of older shelters and facilities with fewer people utilizing them. The bottom line is that the parks need to be “RENEWED” as destinations, and if there are too many facilities (many in disrepair) it only dilutes the experience, lessens the attractiveness for park users and costs more to upgrade and maintain. Fewer and better facilities would make the parks more desirable.

6.2.3 TECHNICAL RESOURCES

The Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Natural Resources Conservation Service recommends the following list of resources, which can be accessed at their East Aurora Field Office. Recognizing that natural resources concerns and conservation/management practices are varied and site-specific and can involve evaluation and planning that may be within the level of expertise of the East Aurora Field Office, the Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District and the NRCS is available to work with the Erie County Parks System in evaluating natural resources concerns on an as-needed basis.

6.3 PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EDUCATION

A move toward environmental based management practices for the Erie County parks will require a focused program of public awareness. In the early stages, reducing mown areas and encouraging natural regeneration can be perceived as neglect. Combined with noticeable improvements to park facilities, e.g. refurbishment of picnic shelters, simple measures such as signage identifying “Natural Regeneration Areas” will go a long way to alleviating public concerns.

Public awareness initiatives could include:

- *Dissemination of information on environmental management practices: e.g. park naturalization programs and benefits, woodlot management, water*

management, water quality improvement measures, or watercourse enhancement projects);

- collaboration with school boards, and local municipalities, in conjunction with other initiatives and programs, to heighten public awareness on environmental initiatives;*
- environmental advocacy at the homeowner level planting of non-invasive species adjacent to natural areas, (e.g. proper disposal of residential contaminants, yard waste disposal, low maintenance landscapes, water conservation, etc.);*
- provision of educational/interpretive signage in County parks;*
- organizing stream and valley clean-up projects, community planting days;*
- use of the County Parks web site, community locations (libraries, community centers, shopping malls) to promote projects, events, and issues.*

6.4 VOLUNTEER ASSISTANCE

As the reality of diminishing budgets, reduced labor forces and rising costs sinks in, the Erie County Parks Department will need to follow the lead set by communities and counties all over the country and solicit the help of volunteer individuals and organizations to supplement their internal work forces in order to not only maintain the existing level of services and maintenance, but also to begin to increase the level of maintenance and enhancements system wide. Volunteer assistance is in no way meant to take any jobs away or to reduce the work levels of current Union employees, but rather to supplement and compliment Union staff levels and to take on projects and tasks that currently cannot be implemented under current staffing levels or budgets, or to tackle projects that are above and beyond all the rest!

As with past volunteer efforts, future endeavors should follow a typical protocol of coordinating all volunteer efforts with parks Department and Union officials, including receiving approval for the task at hand. This would include identifying the task at hand, establishing a definitive timeframe for said effort and coordinating the effort with Parks Department staff and field workers. An ideal



arrangement would be for volunteers to work as a team with Parks staff and field workers.

6.5 SIGNAGE SYSTEM

A new signage system should be developed for the Erie County Park System that updates the existing green and orange wood signs to a more contemporary styling. The signs should be designed as a ‘family’ of signs using a consistent graphic style and a County Parks logo, that can also be used on brochures, marketing materials, and the web site. For cross-marketing purposes, the County should consider a design that is consistent in color and style with the new City of Buffalo Olmsted Parks signs (perhaps with a different logo). Also, given the costs of making changes to park signage, and following the model already set by the City of Buffalo Parks signage, the County should consider the elimination of all political names from County Park Signs.

The following categories of signs might be included:

PARK IDENTIFICATION AND INFORMATION

DIRECTIONAL

REGULATORY

INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION



The following general guidelines should be applied to all signage types:

- *consistency of design and graphic communication;*
- *clarity in conveying the desired message to a range of users, from adults to children;*
- *vandal and weather resistant materials;*
- *of a size and design that is appropriate, visible and understandable to all park users, i.e. cyclists, motorists and pedestrians;*
- *compatibility with surroundings, in use of color, materials, size and placement.*

6.5.1 PARK INFORMATION SIGNS

These signs would be provided at park entrances and/or important trailheads, and key park facilities such as the casinos and could include the following information.

- *Park identification including: the park name, distinctive park system logo and County information (emergency number, park management contact information), operating hours, website address, etc.*
- *Park map, showing trails, key facilities, picnic areas and shelter numbers, environmental management areas. For parks with complex trail systems, loops and distances, degree of difficulty, and any notable hazards such as steep slopes should also be marked.*
- *Park regulations. Standard County park regulations should be extended to include a trail user code of conduct for parks with multi-use trail systems. E.g. 'Share the trail' or 'Wheels yield to Heels yield to Hoofs'*
- *Optional notice board for promotion of park related events or activities, might be included at parks without indoor facilities. To encourage visitation of other parks, and cross-marketing, postings should include upcoming events at other parks or related non-park community events;*
- *Area for patron recognition or sponsors.*



6.5.2 DIRECTIONAL SIGNS

Directional signs should be located at road junctions and access points throughout the park, directing users to nearby facilities, or within trail systems and may include:

- *Park name and logo*
- *Directional arrows*
- *Distance markers should be included at main junction of trails or roadways, in large parks or extensive trail systems;*
- *Simple post markers with graphic or color coding that*



NAMING OF THE PARK SHELTERS

One potential idea for ease of wayfinding around the parks, adding interest for park users and encouraging more donor support would be to name all of the shelters in the various parks. Currently there are some shelters with identifiable names, but many others with simple numbers (i.e. Shelter #14, etc.).



identify trail loops and correspond with an overall route map at the trailheads or on brochures, can be used for complex trail systems.

Directional signs may also include route markers on roads, to direct motorists or cyclists along scenic or safe routes between the parks and nearby destinations, or communities. These signs should also be designed with a distinctive County park identity logo and/or color coding and shall be in conformity with recognized standards, as well as conforming to County and AASHTO standards, for the design of roadway signs. Directional signs could also be posted on main routes directing traffic to specific parking lots within the park system.

6.5.3 REGULATORY SIGNS

Regulatory signs display prohibitive information, warnings and cautions. Areas where regulatory signs may be needed include natural areas where public access is discouraged. For trail systems these may include: potential hazard areas (e.g. steep slopes, or bridges on trail systems), and changes in trail type (e.g. multi-use to walking parks). Seasonal trail or area closures due to conditions, wildlife considerations or environmental restoration should also be signed.

- *Regulatory signs should be designed as part of the overall signage system, using compatible styling and colors;*
- *The message should be easily recognized from a distance (e.g. international symbols, visible colors). Use of metal signs and posts typical of roadway signs is a cost effective design;*
- *Prohibitive or closure information should include a brief, informative explanation noting the reasons for the restriction, encouraging co-operation, and noting whether the situation is temporary or permanent;*
- *Signs identifying 'Natural Regeneration Area' or specific habitat areas, e.g. 'Waterfowl Nesting Area' would also be included within this category of signs.*

6.5.4 INTERPRETIVE / EDUCATIONAL SIGNS

These signs would be developed in conjunction with park themes, or special feature areas along a trail system. Signs may be developed on themes of natural ecosystems, landscape or cultural heritage, flora or fauna or park management practices (e.g. park naturalization). The information presented should be both interesting and informative, and in natural areas, be oriented to building stewardship and responsibility for environmental management.

- *Interpretive/educational signs should be located within a node at viewing locations or rest areas, or at a widened point in a trail system.*
- *Sign design and construction may vary according to the park setting or storyline. A consistent design should be used within each park loop, and each sign series should be compatible with the County park system identity. Different graphic styling might be used for each of the different park types, e.g. Heritage, Waterfront, Conservation Parks.*
- *The presentation of information should be suited to a wide range of users, including adults and children. The message should be both interesting and informative, oriented to educating park users*
- *For areas of geological interest (as an example), i.e. waterfalls, gorges, exposed ledges, etc., work closely with the Buffalo Museum of Science to help to “tell the story” behind these impressive features, i.e. bizarre arthropods called Europterid*

6.5.5 COUNTY PARK RULES AND REGULATIONS

As part of the Erie County Park System Master Plan update, the current County Rules and Regulations were reviewed. (*Erie County Parks Law (Local Law 16-1988)*, the full text of which and *SPECIAL RULES* of the Commissioner regulating or prohibiting certain activities are available from the Department of Parks & Recreation, 95 Franklin Street, Buffalo, New York, 14202, or may be inspected

in the Park Office.) These Rules and Regulations are in use in all of the County Parks. However each park is unique in some way, and if the County opens up the existing undeveloped parks as Conservation Parks for some trails related uses (i.e Hunters Creek Park), the general rules may not apply.

The following are proposed amended rules and regulations for use in the Conservation Parks:

GENERAL PARK RULES

Hours: Hours vary by park; call the individual park for opening and closing times.

Fire Arms Carrying or discharge of firearms is prohibited.

Preservation of Property: Destruction or defacing of park property is prohibited.

Parking: Parking is permitted only in designated lots, on roadway edges where it is permitted. No parking more than 5 feet off roadway or where a sign prohibits parking.

Fires: No fires will be allowed within the park, unless by special permit.

Garbage and Refuse: Littering & dumping are prohibited. This is a "Carry-in Carry-out" County Park.

Dogs: Dogs must be licensed and kept on a leash of no more than 8 feet at all times.

Hunting Fishing and Trapping:

Hunting and trapping are prohibited.

Fishing shall be allowed only in season & where posted.

Bathing and Swimming:

Bathing and swimming are prohibited.

Alcoholic Beverages:

No alcoholic beverages are allowed in the park, unless under special permit.

Containers: Glass Beverage Containers Are Prohibited.

Conduct: Disorderly Conduct is Prohibited

Noise and Music: Unreasonably loud noise or music is prohibited.

No ATV's Will be Permitted in the Park, unless under special permit for security patrolling or for emergency operations.

Snowmobiles Must Be Registered. Snowmobiles may be run, in winter only, on designated trails.

Orders of Police Officers and Park Officials: Park patrons shall comply with the lawful orders of police officers and park officials.

Penalties: Any person convicted of a violation of the Erie County Parks Law shall be punishable by a fine of up to \$100 and/or imprisonment for up to 15 days.

TRAIL CONDUCT RULES

In addition to general park rules and regulations the following trail conduct rules are recommended for extended trail systems within the Erie County Parks, in particular those in removed and difficult to access areas such as Hunter’s Creek Park, the Sardinia Forest, and parts of Chestnut Ridge Park.

- 1. Trails are remote, and use is at your own risk. Cell phones and a ‘trail buddy’ are recommended.*
- 2. Check trail distances and difficulty before heading out. Know your limits in terms of endurance and ability.*
- 3. Respect the natural beauty of the area. Stay on the designated, marked trail system. Trail breaking can cause environmental damage.*
- 4. Do not alter or remove signs and trail markings. Others depend on them.*
- 5. Whatever you carry in, you carry out.*
- 6. In general, trails are multi-use. Please ‘Share the Trail’, and respect the rights of other trail users.*
 - Wheels yield to Heels yield to Hooves*
 - Allow faster riders or walkers to pass you on the left. Indicate your intent to pass.*
- 7. Respect fencelines and no-trespassing signs, and avoid entering private property.*
- 8. Avoid frightening or disturbing wildlife or livestock that may be in close proximity to you.*